



# Bulletin

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## MEMBERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ◆ Raising awareness among farmers to produce renewable energies



The Provincial Energy Agency of Avila, APEA, is organizing several training sessions addressed to farmers. They deal with different possibilities and alternatives of energy crops for the production of biodiesel.

The course aims at promoting farming, bringing together economical and environmental advantages related to the production of renewable sources of energy, such as the biodiesel.

The course is undertaken under the framework of the European Project PROBIO, funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) programme. Its principal objective is the promotion of biodiesel by means of the integration of all agents participating in the different stages: farming, production, distribution and consumption. For further information on upcoming session, download the [brochure](#).

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### ◆ School competition on the promotion of Biomass

Fundación Asturiana de la Energía (FAEN) is organizing as part of the European Project REGBIE+, the school competition of comics "Biomass 2008", with as central topic the promotion of energy exploitation of biomass.

REGBIE+ stands for Regional Initiatives Increasing the Market for Biomass Heating in Europe and was launched in January 2007 to strengthen the uptake of biomass heating at regional level. REGBIE+ is financed under the IEE programme and is being developed by a consortium of 13 partners from 10 different countries.

In addition to FAEN, the consortium includes 2 other FEDARENE members: ÖÖ Energiesparverband (Upper Austria) and Energikontor Sydost (Southeast Sweden)

The competition intends to raise in a creative way some questions on the energy exploitation of biomass such as the relation between biomass energy and sustainable forest activity, the contribution of biomass in fighting against climate change... Schoolchildren in their first and second year of Secondary Education from the region of Asturias are eligible to participate. The prizes include MP4s. For further information, click [here](#).



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#### ◆ And the winner is....

As we informed you in the previous edition, Co2-Online, one of our new FEDARENE members was organizing a competition to choose a song for the climate protection campaign. The winner song has been "Treibhauseffekt" by Mellow Mark, Pyro Merz & Ruffcats, which were awarded with a Gold Record on the occasion of the Monkey Iceland festival last 2<sup>nd</sup> August. You can download it now [here](#).



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#### ◆ Sustainable Development Fair to be held in Bilbao

GEO2, the Sustainable Development Fair, is the new fair on sustainable development matters which will be held in the Bilbao Exhibition Centre (BEC) from 4 to 7 November 2008. The 3 pillars of GEO2 account for sustainable development, namely environment and energy, economy and society.

Within the framework of GEO2 2008, the Basque Enterprise Europe Network, the Cluster Association of Environmental Industries of the Basque Country (ACLIMA), the Energy Cluster Association of the Basque Country and the Basque Energy Board (EVE) will organise, in collaboration with the Sector Groups Renewable Energy and Environment, a Brokerage Event on Sustainable Development that will take place on 6 and 7 November 2008.

The main objective of the event is to create in one place a meeting forum for European companies, research institutes, universities and municipalities that are actively engaged in the fields of environment, renewable energy or any other sector related to Sustainable Development. To participate, you will have to register and create a profile, which will be used to put you in contact with interested participants.

The deadline for registering and submitting profiles is 10 October 2008 and the deadline for requesting bilateral meetings is 17 October 2008. Click here to download the [leaflet](#).



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#### ◆ Walloon social measures in the field of energy consumption

The region of Wallonia published last June a brochure on social measures in the field of energy consumption to inform social stakeholders on the evolution of different legislations.

In this context of liberalization of electricity and gas, there are many suppliers of energy and more than one out of two people have already chosen their supplier.

However, liberalization is a complicated process and raises some questions among customers and end-users. That is the reason why the region of Wallonia recently published a brochure to help social workers advising peoples in need. To download the [brochure](#).



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#### ◆ Using HEAT to CHILL in summer

You are invited to participate in the workshop of the Intelligent Energy Europe supported SUMMERHEAT programme, which will be held on Monday 6 October in the Regional Office of Rhone Alpes in Brussels.

The project is undertaken by a consortium which is composed by several partners and among these 2 FEDARENE members: Berliner Energieagentur GmbH (project leader) and the Rhonalpennergie-Environnement agency (a partner).

SUMMERHEAT project is based on the idea that the raising cooling demands in summer time can be fulfilled in an energy efficient and sustainable way. This can be done by converting surplus heat into cooling with significant primary energy savings achieved.

Based on site-specific studies conducted in seven European cities, the project has assessed the economical, technical and environmental implications of making the SUMMERHEAT reality. To have further information on the programme of the workshop, click [here](#) and to register, click [here](#).



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## PUBLIC CONSULTATION

#### ◆ Consultation on global post-2012 climate change agreement

The European Commission launched on the 4th August a public consultation on the European Union's approach to a global climate change agreement up to and beyond 2012 when the current Kyoto Protocol targets will end. The Commission welcomes comments from all interested parties, including individual citizens, industry, trade unions and consumer representatives, interest groups, the NGO community and other organisations on a series of critical issues, such as mid-term emission reduction targets for developed countries and emission reduction actions for developing countries, adaptation to climate change, technology cooperation and finance.

The results of the survey will help shape the EU's position on the global post-2012 agreement. A conference for stakeholders is planned for autumn this year. The consultation will run until the 10th October and can be answered on line following [this link](#).

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## ENERGY INFORMATION

#### ◆ Boost of solar energy in the EU

The solar energy sector of the EU is benefiting from a new boost thanks to government subsidies, best well known as feed in tariffs, which stimulate its development, according to a study of the consultancy Emerging Energy Research.

About half of the world solar power installed is located in Germany. Germany has always been the leading country with regard to the development of photovoltaic energy, although we are witnessing a phase in which Spain wants to progress too. The overall solar power in Europe currently accounts for 1562 MW, 92% from Germany and Spain.

Developers, who have already benefited from this feed in tariffs system, are moving down to Spain and Italy to enjoy similar incentives. They are also searching alternatives to photovoltaic cellules from silicone and trying thin films, which are less expensive (though also less efficient).

Given the current development of the solar energy market, it is expected that this figure will rise up to 22 gigawatts by 2012. The main producer will be then Germany, Spain, Italy, Greece, France and Portugal.

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#### ◆ The solar power revolution is here

Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have combined solar and fuel cell technologies to create what is being hailed as a clean energy breakthrough.

The system uses electricity generated by solar cells to split oxygen and hydrogen for storage in fuel cells. The fuel cells can then be used to provide electricity when the sun isn't shining, thereby overcoming one of the great limitations of solar energy.

In the past, conventional batteries have been suggested as a way to store solar-generated electricity but they have proved too costly and inefficient to provide sufficient power.

Earlier this month UK company Intelligent Energy presented a scheme to the US Senate based on linking hydrogen fuel cells into the

US electricity grid so as to smooth out the peaky nature of alternative sources such as wind and solar.

In a public statement MIT's researchers hoped that within 10 years all domestic premises would be powered this way, rather than using conventional electricity supplies. For further information, click [here](#).

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#### ◆ Use of solar power for sailing

The 17th century engineering masterpiece, the Canal du Midi (France), now a UNESCO world heritage site, can now be cruised by means of a craft adapted to its age and status: a pollution-free ecologically sound solar-powered barge, designed exclusively for this purpose, the SOLEIL D'OC.

This boat of 29 metres length and 50 tonnes weight and 80m<sup>2</sup> surface counts on an installation of 61 solar panels on its roof that makes possible its navigation and saves 10 tonnes of Co<sub>2</sub> per year.

This project has received the support from the Agence Nationale pour les Chèques Vacances, the Region Languedoc-Roussillon, ADEME Languedoc-Roussillon, the Regional Delegation of Tourisme Languedoc-Roussillon, the Association Française des Myopathies, l'AG2R and the Fondation Veolia environnement. The boat's captain is Dominique Renouf. Interested? The promoters of the initiative are looking for people ready to build and operate more boats of that kind, sailing on other waterways in France! For further information, visit the [website](#).

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#### ◆ Biomass projects to be developed in France

Last June the ministers of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Town and Country Planning from France published the list of selected projects as a result of a call for tenders launched in 2006 to undertake production units of electricity and heating by means of biomass. 56 project proposals were submitted but only 22 of them will receive funding to build up electricity and heating stations using biomass. They will provide overall 300 MW of electricity and should be in operation before 2010. These centrals could benefit from a system of feed in tariffs. The projects will be distributed in 11 regions as follows: 3 in Aquitaine, 1 in Bourgogne, 4 in Champagne-Ardenne, 3 in Franche-Comté, 1 in Haute-Normandie, 2 in Languedoc-Roussillon, 1 in Lorraine, 1 in Picardie, 2 in Poitou-Charentes, 2 in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and 2 in Rhône-Alpes. For more info, please visit the website of the [French Ministry for Sustainable Development](#)

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## ENVIRONMENT INFORMATION

#### ◆ The French president rising to 30% the CO<sub>2</sub> reduction target

The French Ecology Minister Jean-Louis Borloo has recently issued some statement on the Climate and Energy package. He thinks that the EU should envisage the 30% target with regard to the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions instead of the 20% target, as appeared in the proposal of the Commission, with the aim of reaching a global agreement by the end of 2009. However, he does not specify details and just commits to help finding the best deal in the Council. He admits that the consequences for the industry are not as serious as it is thought and that the Commission has been given the mission of identifying the sectors that could benefit from exemptions.

Borloo has also declared that revenues from auctioning the emissions permits will be used to invest in energy efficiency improvements in buildings, transport and energy sectors. He has welcome the endeavours made by the UK Liberal MEP Chris Davies and the Irish Conservative MEP Avril Doyle for having undertaken a financing plan of carbon capture and storage technologies. Davies and Doyle want to grant up to 500 million tonnes of EU ETS emissions allowances, which would normally be reserved for new entrants to the scheme, to large-scale CCS demonstration plants. The aim is to provide an incentive to industries concerned about the high cost of building CCS plants. However, experts from the Council are not ready to divert funds obtained through EU ETS auctioning towards common EU projects.

As far as the 10% target of biofuels is concerned, he has underlined that any kind of fuel produced by means of renewables should be considered, such as wind or solar energy and including electric vehicles.

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#### ◆ Exploiting oil from Canadian sands

A report recently published by WWF and the Co-Operative Financial Services (CFS) warns about the serious risks of climate change if exploitation of Canada's tar-sands and Colorado's oil-shales is undertaken. This could provoke the increase of global atmospheric levels by up to 15%.

In the current economic context of continuous rises of oil prices, the idea of exploiting oil from these areas becomes a profitable business.

According to the authors, Shell, ExxonMobil and BP have together announced over \$CAN 125 billion (€78 billion) worth of development in Canada's oil sands by 2015. Total and StatoilHydro also have plans to exploit unconventional oils, in Venezuela and Canada respectively.

However, the exploitation and processing of oil entail a high consumption of energy, could produce three times more CO<sub>2</sub> emissions than the conventional way of producing oil, generate toxic pollution discharges in rivers and require intensive water use.

Nevertheless, the industry has expressed its commitment to reduce as much as possible the environmental impact and plans to cut emissions by 50% below those estimated at project start-up by 2010.

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#### ◆ Further measures to protect the ozone layer

The European Commission made on 1st August a [proposal](#) to revise the current legislation on the protection of the ozone layer. The objective is to simplify some of the provisions, such as those on exemptions and derogations to the use of ozone-depleting substances, and the conditions under which they can be imported and exported.

Another objective is to tackle substances contained in refrigeration equipment and insulation material in buildings and prevent them to be released into the atmosphere, thus avoiding further damage to the atmosphere. This could save emissions of more than 100 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> each year.

Decreasing emissions of ozone-depleting substances will be translated into a reduction of risks to human health and the environment, while fighting climate change without causing excessive cost to industry.

The ozone layer is expected to recover to pre-1980 levels by 2050-2075.

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#### ◆ The UN's international carbon credit registry is coming soon

The European Commission, Member States and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat have successfully completed all the testing required for connecting to the UN's international carbon credit registry. The EU's Community Independent Transaction Log (CITL) and Member State registries will be connected to the UN's International Transaction Log (ITL) before December 2008 at the latest. The link will mean carbon credits issued under the Clean Development Mechanism can be transferred to the registries of EU Member States.

After having completed successfully in 5 Member States the first run test in May, The European Commission, Member States and the UNFCCC Secretariat continued the second phase test with all Member States but also countries outside the EU such as Russia, Japan and New Zealand.

The Commission is working with the UNFCCC Secretariat to set up a date for the official connection. Registries will be suspended during the connection procedure for up to a week. To know more, [visit this website](#).

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## TRANSPORT INFORMATION

### ◆ Conclusions on biofuel production

A report published on 16/07/2008 by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) drew the following conclusions with regard to biofuels: their production is expensive, have a limited impact on reducing greenhouse gases and improving energy security and have negative consequences on world crop prices.

They require great public funding to be viable, for example in the US, Canada and the European Union government support is expected to rise to around USD 25 billion per year by 2015 from about USD 11 billion in 2006.

The report urges governments to promote energy efficiency, specially in the transport sector, open markets in biofuels and feedstocks to improve their efficiency and their costs and to focus on alternative fuels that maximise the reduction of fossil fuel and greenhouse gas emissions. It also proposes to progress on second generation biofuels.

The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is an important reason why biofuels are promoted but there are great differences between savings from biofuels produced in Brazil, Ethanol from sugar cane, whose reduction reach 80% compared to biofuels from North America and Europe, based on feedstocks, whose reduction is lower.

Biofuels from wheat, sugar beet or vegetable oil rarely provide emission savings of more than 30 to 60 percent while savings from corn (maize) based ethanol are generally less than 30 percent.

The impact of current biofuel policies on world crop prices has increased demand of cereals and vegetable oils but should not be overestimated. You can read the full report in [English](#) and [French](#).

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## REGION INFORMATION

### ◆ Contribution of Structural Funds in the development of coastal regions

A [study](#) developed by the European Parliament has undertaken an assessment of aid provided by the Structural Funds for tourism improvements in coastal regions. Tourism is mainly funded at European level by Structural and Cohesion Funds.

However, the study reminds that help by Cohesion policy focus on the renovation of traditional seaside infrastructure but should lead also to the implementation of an integrated approach to coastal management, in particular with regards to environmental protection (coastal erosion and biodiversity).

The study recommends favouring heritage and cultural tourism with a view to widening the range of tourist activities on offer. It also suggests strengthening cross-border projects which allow European coastal regions to prepare for competition in terms of worldwide rather than European-level tourism. In 2007 - 13, EUR 6.3 billion of European investment is available thanks to the operational programmes for projects linked directly to tourism (other allocations are available for coastal regions through the funds earmarked for the environment, culture, urban renovation, human resources, etc).

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## EVENTS

### ◆ Environment Technology 08



Environment Technology 08 is a fair to be held in Helsinki on 10-12 September 2008 organized by the Finnish Fair Corporation. It represents a meeting point in the Nordic countries and the Baltic region for those people working in the field of environment technology - environment, municipal engineering, waste, water and clean energy production. In the framework of this fair, two [seminars](#) will be organised on clean technologies in Finland and a second one dealing with energy efficiency in buildings and housing areas. For further information, please visit the [website](#). Should you wish to visit the fair, please register beforehand [www.ymparistotekniikkamessut.fi](http://www.ymparistotekniikkamessut.fi) or during the fair in the entrances of Helsinki Fair Centre.

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### ◆ Powering the urban future



ECOENERGEN is organizing the upcoming 13th and 14th October 2008 a conference on urban planning "Powering the urban future" in Vienna. There is a high variety of topics that will be discussed between them, Renewable Energy Source (RES) and Energy Efficiency (EE) areas, and will gather engineers, consultants, regional, local and European authorities that will exchange views on the subjects.

The conference will present not only successful implementations from a variety of fields, but will also provide an opportunity to examine conceptualizations of the future, assess problems and capacities, and map possible roads ahead. Please download the brochure in [German](#) or [English](#) and feel free to visit their [website](#).

### ◆ Local and regional development in Europe

Euregia is a bi-annual platform for cross-border communication, debate on future prospects and conferences on local and regional development in Europe. The Euregia 2008 takes place on 27-29 October in Leipzig and is organized by the Leipzig Trade Fair, Germany. The three main themes for the trade fair and congress are headlined "European territorial cooperation", "Regional competitiveness and employment in urban-rural regions" and "New forms of financing in urban and regional development". As an international gathering for European local and regional developers, euregia will offer an overview of current projects, finance plans, networks and initiatives as well as the direction of EU programmes. For more info, visit [the website](#). To register, click [here](#).



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### ◆ Towards a European Policy for Sustainable Housing



Jean-Marie Beaupuy and Alain Hutchinson, MEP respectively Chairman (France) and Vice-Chairman (Belgium) of the "Urban-Logement" Intergroup, which was created in 2005 at their initiative concerned by urban and housing matters, are organizing a conference which will deal with sustainable housing. It will be held on 18 September in the European Parliament premises and you can download the brochure in [French](#) and [English](#) for further information. The aim of the activities organized by the Intergroup is to exchange ideas and best practices and to prepare concrete actions.

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## PUBLICATIONS

### ◆ Can building codes deliver energy efficiency?



This report published by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) looks at the role of building regulations, critically reviewing the way in which building regulations in selected countries around the world can contribute to achieving energy efficiency. The aim is to identify best practices for energy related building codes and regulations according to the needs and conditions of countries.

The specific ways in which building regulations deal with energy efficiency will inevitably differ around the world, depending on climatic circumstances. However, what this report addresses is whether there are any principles underlying their formulation, compliance and enforcement that could be highlighted.

There is general acceptance that building energy codes are an important energy policy instrument. In many countries, especially in Europe, more demanding codes have resulted in the buildings that are constructed today being much more energy-efficient than those of twenty years ago. Since energy policy concerns and priorities legitimately differ from country to country, it is very unlikely that there can be a universally applicable building energy code. However, the review identified some features of code structure that have been demonstrated to be applicable over a range of different situations and have been widely recognised as representing good practice. To download the report, click [here](#).

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### References

The articles of this issue are based on booklets, advertising, seminars and conferences, and on articles featured in the following publications: the Official Journal of the European Union, Newsletter from Inforegio News, Europa, Europarl, etc.

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